Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 03133 180946Z ACTION EA-09

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O R 180910Z APR 77 FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3317 INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE AMEMBASSY TOKYO CINCPAC

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MANILA FOR CODEL WOLFF: REPRESENTATIVES WOLFF AND MEYNER

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, KS, SHUM

SUBJECT: ROKG DETENTIONS AND HEALTH OF KIM TAE-JUNG

REF: (A) STATE 085739 (160033Z APR 77), B. MANILA 5669 (180307Z APR 77) NOTAL, C. SEOUL 2357 (240804Z MAR 77)

- 1. TO EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE, NONE OF KOREAN ACTIVISTS AND DISSIDENTS DETAINED BY KCIA SINCE APRIL 13 CONTACTED MEMBERS OF CODEL WOLFF. DETENTIONS ARE RESULT OF DISSIDENTS' COVERT CIRCULATION OF "CHARTER FOR DEMOCRACY AND NATIONAL SALVATION" FIRST ISSUED MARCH 22 (REF C), AND THEIR GATHERING OF MORE SIGNATURES FOR THIS DOCUMENT. LATEST INFORMATION RECEIVED APRIL 18 INDICATES TOTAL OF NINETEEN HAVE BEEN DETAINED, SEVEN RELEASED, FOR TOTAL OF TWELVE STILL IN DETENTION (SEE SEPTEL).
- 2. AS FOR KIM TAE-CHUNG'S HEALTH (REF A) MOST RECENT ROKG REPORTS WE (AND JAPANESE EMBASSY) HAVE INDICATE HIS HEALTH IS CONFIDENTIAL

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GOOD EXCEPT FOR CHRONIC SCIATICA AND RHEUMATISM PROBLEMS. MRS. KIM TAE-CHUNG AS REPORTED SEOUL 2972 INDICATES HE IS IN POOR HEALTH. APRIL 18, PAK SE-GYONG, ATTORNEY FOR KIM TAE-CHUNG, TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE HAD LAST SEEN KIM ON APRIL 15 AND KIM SEEMED "A LITTLE BETTER; HIS FACE WAS NOT SWOLLEN." PAK NOTED THAT, IN PAST, KIM'S FACE HAD SWOLLEN FROM TIME TO TIME, HE HAD COMPLAINED OF NOT BEING ABLE TO SLEEP

OR EAT FOR SEVERAL DAYS, AND THAT HE SUFFERS NERVOUS PAIN FROM JOINT INFLAMMATION IN HIS LEFT LEG DATING BACK TO A CAR ACCIDENT AROUND 1972, WHILE CAMPAIGNING FOR THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLEY. WE ARE CONTINUING TO CHECK HEALTH QUESTION AND WILL REPORT FURTHER.

- 3. INCIDENTALLY, PAK SE-GYONG SAID THAT HE HAD LEARNED THIS MORNING FROM THE VICE DIRECTOR, SODAEMUN PRISON, THAT KIM WAS TRANSFERRED APRIL 16 TO CHINJU, IN KYONGNAM. THIS HAS BEEN FURTHER CONFIRMED BY ONE OF KIM TAE-CHUNG'S SECRETARIES. PAK NOTED THAT, ALTHOUGH AS ONE OF KIM'S FIVE LAWYERS FOR HIS PENDING ELECTION CASE HE HAS UNLIMITED VISITATION PRIVILEGES, HE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO VISIT KIM, NOW THAT THE LATTER HAS BEEN MOVED SO FAR AWAY. KIM'S SECRETARY SAID HOWEVER THAT ANOTHER LAWYER, YI TAEK-TONG, AND MRS. KIM TAE-CHUNG WERE PLANNING TO GO TO CHINJU APRIL 19 AND WOULD SEE KIM APRIL 20.
- 4. FOR MANILA: WE ARE REPEATING THREE TELEGRAMS WHICH LIST NAMES OF DETAINEES MENTIONED IN PARA 1. SNEIDER

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